

**Minutes of:** CALIFORNIA STATE ATHLETIC COMMISSION  
**Meeting Specifics:** Regular Commission Meeting – Mixed Martial Arts Regulations  
March 31, 2000 – 10:00am  
Glendale – Glendale Hilton  
100 West Glenoaks Blvd  
Glendale, CA

**1. CALL TO ORDER BY CHAIRMAN**

Commissioners Present: Manuel “Cal” Soto, Chairman  
Elmer Costa, Vice-Chairman  
Andrew Kim  
Don Novey  
Alvin Ducheny

Staff Present: Rob Lynch, Executive Officer  
Anita Scuri, DCA Legal Counsel  
Earl Plowman, Deputy Attorney General – Licensing  
Frank Munoz, Recording Secretary  
Sal Barajas, Assistant Chief Inspector  
Leydis Church, Associate Governmental Program Analyst  
Kathy Chilimidos, Staff Services Analyst

Martial Arts Advisory  
Committee Members  
Present: Ryan Chenoweth  
Nelson Hamilton  
Paul Smith  
Dan Stell  
Tony Thompson

Martial Arts Advisory  
Committee Members  
Not Present: Herb Cody  
Mark Krieger, M.D.

**2. RULES 518 THROUGH 518.16 – MIXED MARTIAL ARTS**

Mr. Lynch stated that at the February 18, 2000 meeting, the commission accepted oral/written comments from the public regarding the proposed mixed martial arts regulations. Since there was a tremendous response to the regulations, he stated that the commission scheduled a separate meeting to deal with the mixed martial arts regulations. He informed the persons in attendance that the comment period had expired and the commission would not accept comments; however, he stated that the commission might ask them for input or suggestions regarding mixed martial arts regulations. He asked that the attendees keep in mind the health and safety issues of fighters.

Ms. Scuri informed the commission that the comments received were summarized and put in order by regulation section. She suggested that the commission go through each regulation one by one and could either make

changes, accept oral comment, or leave the regulation as is.

Ms. Scuri informed the commission that the first four regulations (Rule 518 – 518.3) had received no comments or changes. She stated from that point on most all sections had received comments.

#### **518.4 – Weights & Classes**

Commissioner Novey had a concern with the 30-pound weight difference in the middleweight class for males. He wanted to hear from experts in the audience the rationale behind a 30-pound difference in the middleweight class. Mr. Ron Bryant, member of the International Freestyle Fighting Federation (IFFF), stated that unlike boxing, weight was not a big factor in mixed martial arts (MMA). Commissioner Novey stated that a 10-15 pound weight difference would be acceptable but a 30-pound difference for the middleweight class would take away the “mano y mano” scenario, which usually occurred, in the middleweight class up to the light heavyweight class. Mr. Bryant stated that the physics of boxing was different than the physics of MMA. Mr. Bryant added that normally a lighter fighter could submit a heavier fighter because the lighter fighter would go straight to the ground where he would have more leverage than the heavier fighter.

Ms. Scuri informed Commissioner Novey that a comment was received that requested the inclusion of a super lightweight category, which would be from 155.1 – 175 pounds. Commissioner Novey stated that he would strongly encouraged that weight class. He informed the commission that he and Mr. Lynch attended a MMA event where he saw first hand the experience of the fighters that participated in MMA events. He added that there was one fight that he saw where a fighter was struck flush with a punch and had to be carried out of the ring. He felt that if there would have been a greater weight disparity the fighter probably when have been hurt even more.

Mr. Smith stated that on the final draft of the weights there was a break down between middleweights and heavyweights which created a light heavyweight class that made a 15-pound weight difference for male fighters. He informed the commission that the light heavyweight class was 180 - 195 pounds and middleweight class was 165 – 180 pounds.

Clint Dahl, member of Bull Dog Promotions, stated that there were big gaps in the weight classes and fighters who currently competed in MMA used that format but it would definitely have the potential of serious injuries. He informed the commission that in an Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC) event there was a match up of fighters with a 15-pound weight difference that ended in a very serious injury. He added that shortening the weight classes would be very good for the fighters’ safety but it would also affect some of the super fights that might occur.

Mr. Marty Denkin stated that if the commission started the weight classes at 150 pounds for male fighters then what would happen to the fighters that weight under that limit who wanted to compete. Also, he stated that weight classes for females started at 120 pounds. He added that the way the program was currently set up it would surely eliminate fighters that would want to compete in MMA. Mr. Plowman informed Mr. Denkin that 150-pound and under fighters could compete just as long as there was a ten pound weight spread. Mr. Plowman stated, for example, a fight could not take place between a fighter that weighted 145 pounds and a fighter that weight 130 pounds because it would be over the weight spread. Mr. Denkin stated that he understood that but he wanted to have the commission include more weight classes for both female and male fighters below the current weight categories. Ms. Scuri stated that Rule 298, which dealt with professional boxing weights, had 11 weight categories below 150 pounds that could possibly be used as an example to set up more weight classes for MMA.

Mr. Thompson felt that by making more categories MMA would make the sport safer for the fighters competing.

Commissioner Novey asked if everyone on the commission agreed that, excluding the super heavyweight division, there would be no weight disparity over 10 pounds. The commission concurred with Commissioner Novey.

Commissioner Ducheny stated that he agreed with Mr. Denkin's suggestion that there be more weight categories added for fighters in MMA but he asked that the weight spread stay within 10 pounds excluding super heavyweights.

Mr. Lynch gave the following suggestions to the commission on weight classes for males competing in MMA:

- Junior Flyweight.....120 lbs. and under
- Flyweight..... 120.1 lbs. – 135 lbs.
- Bantamweight..... 135.1 lbs. – 150 lbs.
- Lightweight .....150.1 lbs. – 165 lbs.
- Middleweight ..... 165.1 lbs. – 180 lbs.
- Light Heavyweight.. 180.1 lbs. – 195 lbs.
- Heavyweight ..... 195.1 lbs. – 225 lbs.
- Super Heavyweight..225.1 lbs. – and over

Chairman Soto asked Commissioner Kim what he thought about the proposed weight classes. Commissioner Kim stated that he agreed with both Mr. Bryant and Commissioner Novey because he felt that weight was not as important in martial arts as it was in boxing but too much of a weight difference would be unsafe.

Ms. Scuri explained the regulatory process for changes to the final draft of MMA. She stated that when the regulation hearing was over and the comment period past, the commission received comments that they could take into consideration for changes to the final draft of MMA. She added that since changes were going to be made to the final draft staff would have to post the amended version of the MMA regulations for an additional comment period of 15 days to receive comments from the public. Once all changes were made and voted on, she stated that the rule package would first go through the Director's office for review and then to the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) for their review and final approval. She asked that the commission delegate the authority to the executive officer to make any changes necessary for comments received after the 15-day comment period. She added that the commission could vote on each rule individually and then vote to approve the whole package at the end.

**Action:** Motion by Commissioner Ducheny and seconded by Vice-Chairman Costa to approve the changes made to the weight classes for male fighters and also change the weight spread to 10-pounds for all weight classes excluding the super heavyweight. This motion also included that the commission delegate the authority to the executive officer to make any changes necessary for comments received after the 15-day comment period.

**Vote:** Unanimous

Vice-Chairman Costa asked the Martial Arts Advisory Committee if there should any change to the weight classes for women fighters. Mr. Thompson suggested that there be a five-pound weight spread instead of a 10-pound spread to protect the safety of female fighters. Vice-Chairman Costa concurred with Mr. Thompson. Mr. Plowman asked Mr. Thompson if he wanted to include the additional weight categories as was done for the male weight classes. Mr. Thompson said yes but with the five-pound weight spread.

Ms. Scuri asked Mr. Lynch if he had any suggestions for weight spreads. Mr. Lynch stated that there should be

a five-pound weight spread for all weight division except for the heavyweight class and the super heavyweight class. He added that for the heavyweight class there should be a weight spread not more than 10 pounds and for the super heavyweight class there should be no limit. The commission concurred with Mr. Lynch's recommendation.

**Action:** Motion by Vice-Chairman Costa and seconded by Commissioner Ducheny to approve the weight spread of five-pounds for all weight classes except for heavyweights and super heavyweight. Heavyweights shall have a 10-pound weight spread and super heavyweights shall have no limit.

**Vote:** 3-2

**Ayes:** Chairman Soto, Vice-Chairman Costa, and Commissioner Ducheny

**Noes:** None

**Abstentions:** Commissioner Kim and Commissioner Novey

Ms. Scuri asked Mr. Lynch if he had any suggestions for the weight classes for female fighters. Mr. Lynch gave the following weight classes:

- Flyweight.....115 lbs. and under
- Bantamweight ..... 115.1 lbs. – 120 lbs.
- Lightweight .....120.1 lbs. – 130 lbs.
- Middleweight ..... 130.1 lbs. – 140 lbs.
- Light Heavyweight.. 140.1 lbs. – 150 lbs.
- Heavyweight ..... 150.1 lbs. – 175 lbs.
- Super Heavyweight..175.1 lbs. – and over

**Action:** Motion by Commissioner Novey and seconded by Chairman Soto to approve the changes made to the weight classes for female fighters.

**Vote:** Unanimous

Ms. Scuri stated that the commission had one further item to discuss in regard to Rule 518.4, which was the issue of male vs. female bouts. She added that a comment was received in which the person asked for clarity on this issue. Mr. Lynch stated that there was nothing in writing anywhere in the commission's regulations that state that a male vs. female bout could not take place; however, he stated that it was commission policy that these bouts would not be allowed. Ms. Scuri informed Mr. Lynch that the policy was considered an "underground" regulation and she suggested that the commission add this to the regulations at a later time and direct it to all sports that the commission regulates.

### **518.5 – Rounds; Numbers; Length; Rest Period**

Ms. Scuri stated that currently Rule 518.5 read as follows:

Non-title matches shall not exceed two eight-minute rounds with a two-minute rest period between rounds. There shall be no overtime period for non-title matches. Title matches shall not exceed two ten-minute rounds with a two-minute rest period between rounds. If a title bout is scored a draw, one four-minute overtime round shall be permitted.

Ms. Scuri informed the commission that two comments were made that suggested that the commission change the rule to reflect three-five minute rounds for non-championship matches and five-five minute rounds for

championship matches with both non-championship and championship having a rest period of one minute between rounds. Vice-Chairman Costa asked the Martial Arts Advisory Committee for their input regarding the length of rounds. Mr. Stell stated that he did not have a problem with the proposed time change for the rounds but he had a concern with the overtime round that would be fought if the fight ended in a draw. Mr. Stell added that if the fighters could not do their job within the given time of a fight then the fight should be declared a draw instead of allowing an extra round which could end up in someone possibly being injured.

Commissioner Ducheny asked that he receive input from the people that made the recommendation for their rationale behind the proposed time change. Mr. Jeff Blatnick stated that the UFC created the three-five minute round system for non-championship fights because they found it was easier for the judges to keep track of the scoring. He noted that the three-five minute round system was better than the two-eight minute round system because it was shorter in duration, prevented a draw, and one fighter could win each round. He added that the UFC went with the one-minute rest period because it was enough time between rounds for a fighter to rest up but not cool down. He informed the commission that the UFC currently used the three-five minute round system with a one-minute rest period for non-championship fights and five-five minute rounds with a one-minute rest period for championship fights both with no overtime. In addition to fighters safety, Mr. Blatnick stated that going from a longer period of fighting to shortened period of time would give the referee and the fighter's corner more time to evaluate the condition of the fighters during the rest periods.

Mr. Bryant informed the commission that he agreed with Mr. Blatnick's statement. He stated that if the sport was ever televised the proposed time change would fit perfectly with the television network's time frame.

John Beck, from Extreme Combat, stated that he also agreed with Mr. Blatnick's proposed time change because it lessened the occurrence of a draw since the rounds would be in odd numbers.

Mr. Barajas stated that he too agreed with the proposed time change because with more rounds it gave more rest periods for the fighters to be evaluated which is good for the health and safety of the fighters. He added that the current number of minutes for a non-championship bout totaled 16 minutes for two rounds of fighting where as the proposed time change would have a total of 15 minutes for three rounds of fighting. For championship bouts, he stated that the current number of minutes totaled 20 minutes for two rounds of fighting but the proposed time change required a total of 25 minutes for five rounds of fighting. He felt that this system would work more towards the health and safety of the fighters because the fighters would be checked more frequently.

Mr. Smith stated that when the Martial Arts Advisory Committee first came up with the time limits of a bout they kept in mind the average time it took for a MMA fight to end naturally. He added that with so many rest periods a fighter might get just enough energy to win that round or bout but also at the same time that fighter could injure himself and be dropped from the tournament.

Commissioner Kim asked if the overtime round was going to be left in for championship bouts. Ms. Scuri informed him that if he along with the commission wanted to delete it they could. Commissioner Kim asked the Martial Arts Advisory Committee what the rationale was behind the overtime round and if this was something new that was being created in California. Mr. Smith informed Commissioner Kim that in most places an overtime round was not permitted. Mr. Smith stated that an overtime round could be considered as an extra round where a fighter could prove to the judges that he should win that fight and also it was a good crowd pleaser.

Mr. Stell felt that if fighters were given 15 minutes to prove what they have, why should they be given an extra four minutes to possibly hurt themselves while trying to win a fight. Commissioner Ducheny concurred with Mr. Stell's opinion.

**Action:** Motion by Commissioner Ducheny and seconded by Commissioner Kim to change Rule 518.4 to read as follows: Non-title matches shall not exceed three-five minute rounds with a one minute rest period between rounds. Title matches shall not exceed five-five minute rounds with a one-minute rest period between rounds

**Vote:** Unanimous

### **518.6 – Time Between Bouts**

Ms. Scuri stated that a comment was received which asked that the commission require that a doctor examine fighters before each bout and re-examined the fighters between bouts. She stated that she could draft language to include this suggestion in the rule.

**Action:** Motion by Vice-Chairman Costa and seconded by Commissioner Kim to direct Ms. Scuri to draft language to include this suggestion into Rule 518.6.

**Vote:** Unanimous

### **518.7 – Fighters' Equipment**

Ms. Scuri informed the commission that they received numerous comments on this rule. She gave the following comments:

- Prohibit padding on any striking surface.
- Prohibit shin protectors.
- Prohibit padded training belts.
- No padded footgear.
- No shin protectors.
- Only allow soft wrestling shoes.
- Could a fighter wear a gee?
- Could a fighter wear fighting briefs?
- Is the hipline defined as the crest of the ilium?
- Clarify what type of abdominal guard can be used.
- Require wearing two pairs of trunks.

Mr. Hamilton stated that unless someone gave him a good reason why it should not be to the option of the fighter involved to wear padded shoes, shin protectors, padded belts, etc. the rule would stay as is. Mr. Bryant stated that he felt that padding on any striking surface should not be allowed because it would allow the fighters to strike more resulting in injuries. Mr. Bryant added that the less padding to the striking surface would lessen the use of strikes, which would lessen the occurrence of injuries. For example, he stated that in Muay Thai the fighters do not wear padded shoes. Mr. Hamilton stated that the fighters have the option to wear padded shoes if they wanted. Mr. Bryant stated that he was not proposing an option. Mr. Hamilton stated that he felt that the fighters should have the right to wear whatever they felt necessary to compete within commission guidelines.

Ms. Scuri informed Mr. Bryant that the way the rule was written it contained an option. Ms. Scuri asked Mr. Bryant if he supported that option. Mr. Bryant stated that he did not. For example, Mr. Bryant stated that while competing in MMA if a fighter saw a weakness on his opponent such as a shin protector that fighter would go for that shin protector to try to get leverage to twist his opponent's ankle to win by submission. He added that something that was to protect a fighter could result in that fighter becoming injured.

Mr. Blatnick asked the commission what they considered an abdominal guard. Mr. Hamilton stated that an abdominal guard was an athletic cup.

Mr. Blatnick stated that he agreed with Mr. Bryant's comments on why padding should not be permitted on a striking surface. He added that if fighters were permitted to wear equipment that could be used as hand holds it would greatly affect submission locks. He noted that he understood the option of fighters being able to wear certain equipment but in a statistical stand point he stated that adding padding to a striking surface would allow the fighters to strike more simply because of the protection it provides to the surface. Ms. Scuri asked Mr. Blatnick if he opposed the option. Mr. Blatnick said that he did not because it was the fighters' rights.

Mr. Smith asked the commission to change the abdominal guard to athletic cup for clarity.

**Action:** Motion by Vice-Chairman Costa and seconded by Commissioner Novey to leave the rule as is but replace the abdominal guard with athletic cup for clarity.

**Vote:** Unanimous

### **518.8 – Gloves – Weight**

Ms. Scuri stated that the commission had the following issues to discuss:

- The weight of the gloves
- Should MMA gloves that are fingerless be used
- Clarify whether bout can have fighters of different weight classes

Mr. Blatnick stated that UFC used fingerless gloves because in submission fighting the fingers are needed to get leverage for submission holds. He added that if they had to use closed finger gloves the fighters would lose the ability to grab. He stated that clarity was already brought to the issue of fighters fighting in different weight classes because the commission had already passed a motion during Rule 518.4, which addressed his concerns.

Mr. Lynch stated that the open gloves would be used for submission fighting and not boxing gloves. He added that the rule stated that the commission must approve all gloves. Ms. Scuri suggested that the commission could add the open gloves or fingerless gloves to the rule to bring clarity. Mr. Lynch stated that he would like it to stay the same because if in a couple of years the gloves changed the commission could still approve them without a rule change. Ms. Scuri stated that the commission still had to deal with the weight issue because a few of the comments received suggested that the gloves were too heavy. Mr. Lynch stated that he had a chance to look over the gloves and he was amazed on how light they were.

Mr. Bryant asked if the gloves would be optional. The commission said no.

Mr. Blatnick stated that he would like to have one form of glove for all weight classes because the more material added to the glove would increase its use as a weapon.

Mr. Julian Flatigan stated that since he was a grappler he enjoyed fighting opponents with gloves. He added that he uses the glove to his advantage when he fights to apply arm bars or wrist locks because the gloves stick out and allows him to get leverage to apply those holds. He informed the commission that no matter how big or small the gloves were he could still use them to his advantage.

The commission felt that the rule was fine as is so no changes were made.

## **518.9 – Fouls in Full-Contact Mixed Martial Arts and Penalties**

### **(a)(2) Eye gouging**

Ms. Scuri stated that a comment was received which asked that the commission add the word "poking" to the foul to make it read "no gouging and poking of the eyes".

The commission did not make any changes to this rule.

### **(a)(6) Point of elbow strikes**

Ms. Scuri informed the commission that they received two comments, which asked that the commission allow point of elbow strikes except to the back of the head and neck.

The commission did not make any changes to this rule.

### **(a)(7) Use of knees above the shoulder**

Ms. Scuri informed the commission that they received three comments, which asked that the commission allow the use of knees above the shoulders.

The commission did not make any changes to this rule.

### **(a)(8) Strikes to spine**

Ms. Scuri stated that a comment was received which asked that the commission clarify which area or zone of the spine could not be struck. The commission stated that absolutely no strikes were permitted to the spine.

The commission did not make any changes to this rule.

### **(a)(9) Groin attacks**

Ms. Scuri informed the commission that they received a comment that suggested that the commission change the foul to read "no striking to the groin area".

The commission did not make any changes to this rule.

### **(a)(10) Kidney strikes**

Ms. Scuri informed the commission that they received three comments asking that the commission allow kidney strikes; however, kidney strikes would only be prohibited when a fighter is on the ground.

The commission did not make any changes to this rule.

### **(a)(11) Palm heel strikes to the front of the face**

Ms. Scuri informed the commission that they received four comments, which suggested that the commission allow palm heel strikes to the face, but not when a fighter is on the ground.

The commission did not make any changes to this rule.



#### **(a)(12) and (a)(13) Kicks to front of knees and Strikes to front of knees**

Ms. Scuri informed the commission that a suggestion was made to change the foul to read "no striking or kicking directly to the knees".

The commission did not make any changes to this rule.

#### **(a)(14) Attacking or obstructing the trachea**

Ms. Scuri informed the commission that they received the following comments:

- Tracheal obstruction was fundamentally dangerous since it would fracture the bones of the airway cartilage. Carotid artery occlusion was generally safe if well monitored and participant was healthy.
- Carotid artery chokeholds were ok so long as the fighter does not lose consciousness.
- Chokeholds are a bad idea as it could fracture the hyoid bone and cause death.
- Prohibit throat strikes
- Chokeholds used in MMA are applied to the side of the neck to cut the blood flow to the brain

Commissioner Ducheny stated that he would like to hear from the doctors in regard to the use of chokeholds. Ms. Scuri stated that the majority of the written comments made were from doctors. Commissioner Ducheny asked if there were any doctors in the audience that would comment on the use of chokeholds. Dr. John Howard stated that chokeholds were a very dangerous technique that could cause major injury and or death. Dr. Howard added that he was strongly against the use of carotid chokes. Ms. Scuri asked Dr. Howard if a carotid choke resulted in unconsciousness would there be any real danger to a fighter. He stated that it would determine on how long the choke was applied. Chairman Soto asked Dr. Howard what the long-term effect would be after a fighter had a choke continuously place on him over the years. Dr. Howard stated that the chokes were an immediate danger that had no long-term effects.

Mr. Hamilton stated that he gave the original wording for Rule 518.9(a)(14) strictly to deal with the use of chokes. He added that obviously with the comments received this item was a troubled area but that was why they came to the meeting to work out any and all issues. He stated that these types of chokes have been used in judo and jiu-jitsu for many years and to his knowledge there had been no deaths or major injuries associated with carotid chokes.

Mr. Plowman stated that basically the use of carotid chokes could cause a fighter to become unconscious and also there was a potential of death if the hyoid bone was fractured.

Ms. Scuri stated that this item would have to be separated into two parts. First, she asked if the commission had any problems with no attacking or obstructing the trachea. The commission said no. She then asked if carotid chokes should be prohibited and added as a foul. Commissioner Ducheny stated that he felt that prohibiting the use of carotid chokeholds should be added as a foul for MMA.

The Martial Arts Advisory Committee responded. Mr. Thompson stated that if the commission did prohibit the use of carotid chokes it would basically kill the sport. Mr. Thompson added that with the proper referee supervising the bout the referee could stop the fight once he sees that a person is under a strong choke. Mr. Stell stated that the participants who compete in MMA were conditioned athletes that had more pride to tap out than to be rendered unconscious. Mr. Hamilton stated that he couldn't see why the commission should have to be more rigid about the use of chokeholds than the sport of Judo in the Olympics.

**Action:** Motion by Commissioner Ducheny and seconded by Vice-Chairman Costa to add carotid chokeholds as a foul for MMA.

**Vote:** 3-2

**Ayes:** Chairman Soto, Vice-Chairman Costa, and Commissioner Ducheny

**Noes:** Commissioner Novey and Commissioner Kim

Commissioner Ducheny stated that the commission was doing the best job that it could with the information that they had. He stated that at one point the commission could change its stance but for now the commission made a decision.

Mr. Thompson stated that the commission brought the Martial Arts Advisory Committee to the meeting to give expert advice but the commission was not listening to them. He stated that they recommended that the chokeholds be legal.

Commissioner Novey stated that this was his first introduction to MMA and since he had attended a MMA event it took away some of his trepidation regarding the use of chokeholds. He stated that at the event he attended the supervision of the fighters was outstanding and he suggested that his fellow commissioners attend a MMA event so that they could judge for themselves on how safe the events were.

Mr. Thompson asked if the commission would outlaw the use of chokes in the Olympic sport of Judo. Ms. Scuri stated that since the use of carotid chokes were used in a nationally recognized sport the commission might have a hard time substantiating the decision because the doctors that were polled were split on their decisions regarding carotid chokes. Mr. Plowman stated that carotid chokes were used nationally while competing in Olympic Judo and he stated that with research that he had done he felt that carotid chokes were not an issue. Mr. Plowman suggested that the commission adhere to the Martial Arts Advisory Committee's recommendation. Mr. Plowman added that if there was ever a problem with the use of carotid chokes the commission could always vote to ban chokes in California.

Commissioner Ducheny stated that he could not vote on this issue because to his knowledge the carotid chokes had the possibility of hurting a fighter. He added that until he received more information from doctors regarding the use of carotid chokes his stance would stay the same.

Commissioner Kim stated that from his personal experience practicing Judo as a youngster he felt that chokeholds did not present any danger. He suggested that since the motion had past the commission revisit this issue at an upcoming meeting so that more information could be gathered on the use of carotid chokes.

Mr. Lynch stated that the Medical Advisory Committee was meeting the next day in Los Angeles so he suggested that the commission set the issue of carotid chokes as a topic for the Medical Advisory Committee to talk over and give their recommendations.

Ms. Scuri stated that Chairman Soto asked her if it would be possible to reconsider the motion that was voted on. She informed him that the commission could rescind the motion and refer this item to the Medical Advisory Committee. She stated that a motion would have to be made to rescind the motion.

**Action:** Motion by Chairman Soto and seconded by Vice-Chairman Costa to table this issue and refer it to the Medical Advisory Committee for a recommendation on the use of carotid chokeholds.

**Vote:** Unanimous

**(a)(15) Clawing**

Ms. Scuri informed the commission that one comment was received that suggested that the commission add no pinching or twisting of flesh or grabbing the clavicle. Mr. Dahl stated that if his suggestion were not added then certain people in MMA might train to learn how to administer holds such as these, which would result in injuries.

**Action:** Motion by Commissioner Ducheny and seconded by Vice-Chairman Costa to add clawing, pinching, or twisting the flesh or grabbing the clavicle as fouls under Rule 518.9(a)(15).

**Vote:** Unanimous

**(a)(16) Kicking head of down fighter**

Ms. Scuri informed the commission that two comments were received and they were as follows:

- Clarify if a down fighter could be kicked anywhere except for the head
- Change the rule to read "No kicking the head of a fighter with three or more points down"

The commission stated that no kicking at all of a down fighter would be allowed. The commission did not make any changes to this rule.

**(a)(17) Pulling or holding uniform below hipline**

Ms. Scuri informed the commission that there were two comments received and they were as follows:

- Clarify whether this rule prohibits moves that incorporate grabbing the opponent's pant leg
- Change rule to read "No pulling down the bottoms of another fighter's uniform."

The commission did not make any changes to this rule.

**(a)(18) Holding the fence**

Ms. Scuri informed the commission that a comment was received which suggested that the rule read "No holding the fence to prevent being taken down".

The commission did not make any changes to this rule.

**(a)(19) Hitting below the hipline**

Ms. Scuri informed the commission that two comments were received and they were as follows:

- Clarify whether leg kicks would be prohibited
- Delete the foul all together

Mr. Dahl stated that this rule was a duplicate of foul (a)(9) Groin attack. He felt that if this rule were deleted it would clear up all concerns.

**Action:** Motion by Vice-Chairman Costa and seconded by Commissioner Ducheny to delete Rule 518.9(a)(19).  
**Vote:** Unanimous

**(a)(20) Use of abusive language in the ring**

Ms. Scuri informed the commission that there was one comment, which asked that the commission add “No use of abusive language outside of the ring” to the foul.

The commission did not make any changes to this rule.

**(a)(21) Unsportsmanlike trick or action that causes any injury to an opponent or referee**

Ms. Scuri informed the commission that one comment was received which recommended that the foul read “No unsportsmanlike trick or action that causes injury to anyone”.

Commissioner Kim stated that “any unsportsmanlike action” would be sufficient for him. Ms. Scuri stated that the question would be if the commission would limit the foul to something that caused injury to an opponent or a referee or if the commission would want to expand the foul to include anyone.

**Action:** Motion by Vice-Chairman Costa and seconded by Commissioner Ducheny to change Rule 518.9(a)(21) to read, “No unsportsmanlike trick or action that causes injury to anyone.”  
**Vote:** Unanimous

**(a)(23) Attacking after the bell or gong has sounded ending the round**

Ms. Scuri informed the commission that one comment was received which asked if a horn or buzzer could be used to end a round. If so, then the commission could change the foul to read “No attacking after the end of the round has sounded.”

**(a)(25) Intentional evasion of contact**

The commission did not make any changes to this rule.

Ms. Scuri informed the commission that two comments were received and they were as follows:

- If stalling occurred during the match the referee could restart the match
- What were the guidelines for intentional evasion of contact?

Ms. Scuri asked the commission if the referee’s ring mechanics would resolve these problems during a bout. The commission informed Ms. Scuri that they would.

Commissioner Novey asked if points would be deducted or some other type of penalty would be imposed to a fighter that was intentionally avoiding contact. Mr. Thompson stated that the referee would warn the fighter first then if the fighter kept avoiding contact the referee could take points.

### **Suggested additions to fouls**

Ms. Scuri informed the commission that there were three comments made as recommendations for inclusion to the list of fouls under Rule 518.9. The following is a list of those recommendations:

1. No pulling or twisting of fingers or toes;
2. No striking the back of the head;
3. No attacking state or promotions officials

Ms. Scuri asked for input on the comments. Commissioner Novey suggested that comment number three be taken off the list of comments. Mr. Dahl stated sometimes when a fighter was trying to get his opponent in a choke or an arm bar the opponent would grab on the fighter's fingers to try to get a hand off to try to escape which could result in broken fingers. Mr. Blanick stated that the commission could state that no small joint manipulation be used.

Ms. Scuri asked the commission if no small joint manipulation was acceptable.

**Action:** Motion by Commissioner Ducheny and seconded by Vice-Chairman Costa to include in Rule 518.9 that no small joint manipulation be used (i.e. twisting of fingers or toes).

**Vote:** Unanimous

Ms. Scuri asked if the commission wanted to add no striking the back of the head. Vice-Chairman Costa stated that striking to the back of the head was very dangerous so he felt that it should be added to Rule 518.9.

**Action:** Motion by Vice-Chairman Costa and seconded by Commissioner Ducheny to include in Rule 518.9 that no striking the back of the head be permitted.

**Vote:** Unanimous

### **518.10 – Intentional Fouling**

No comments were received

### **518.11 – Unintentional Fouling**

Ms. Scuri stated that one comment received suggested that the commission delete this rule altogether.

The commission did not make any changes to this rule.

### **518.12 – Method of Scoring When There is an Injury**

No comments were received.

### **518.13 - Ring**

Ms. Scuri informed the commission that a comment was made that suggested that a half-inch layer of foam

padding was not enough protection and vinyl flooring should be used instead canvases because vinyl was less abrasive. Commission Costa stated that he agreed with Mr. Bryant and felt that this issue should be addressed. Ms. Scuri stated that there were two changes to be discussed and the first would be the issue of the half-inch layer of foam padding.

Ms. Scuri asked how thick the foam padding should be if it was not a half-inch. Mr. Bryant stated that it should be an inch. Mr. Smith stated that in the beginning of the sport a lot of people were padding their floor thicker from one-inch to three quarters of an inch but problems started arising because fighters could not perform their techniques due to their feet not being able to grip the floor. Mr. Smith added that the half-inch foam padding had become the happy medium because it would still allow the speed and the mobility for stand up fighters and a solid ground for ground fighters.

Ms. Scuri stated that the second issue to be discussed was vinyl vs. canvas coverings. Mr. Bryant stated that canvas coverings were very abrasive even with the paint and/or decals that were put on the coverings. Mr. Smith stated that the primary purpose most of the other organizations got away from using the vinyl or the plastic type of coverings was because when the covering got wet with sweat or other bodily fluids the fighters would slip.

The commission did not make any changes to this rule.

#### **518.14 – Height of Ring**

No comments were received.

#### **518.15 – Ring Fence**

Ms. Scuri informed the commission that three comments were received and they were as follows:

- Allow option to use a rope-type boxing ring or a cage
- Allow MMA “pit”
- They would help build octagon cages for the state

Commissioner Novey asked what type of ring Mr. Smith used at his events. Mr. Smith stated that he used a pentagon shape ring, which was enclosed by a coated fence. Mr. Smith stated that a boxing ring would not be safe for the spectators or the fighters because the fighters could fall out and possibly hurt themselves as well as the spectators.

The commission did not make any changes to this rule.

#### **518.16 – Sanitation**

No comments were received.

#### **Additional Comments**

Ms. Scuri stated that there was a comment regarding the cost of licensure. She informed the commission that they did not need to address the cost at this point but she felt that the fees would be close to what was required for boxers and martial artist.

Ms. Scuri stated that there was a comment that stated that the organizations should be able to appoint their own

referees and judges. Mr. Denkin stated that an organization should not be able to appoint its own officials because if there were ever a match up of rival teams the officials might lean more towards their own guy. He added that the commission did not have any qualified persons aboard that would be able to recognize this. Ms. Scuri informed Mr. Denkin that the commission was not recommending it they were just commenting on it. Mr. Dahl informed the commission that there needed to be some provisions for ground re-starts. He stated that sometimes two fighters would get on the floor and lay on each other, which he thought was boring. He added that the referee should get the fighters up and restart them. However, if one fighter was working while other fighter was blocking then they should be left alone. Basically, he stated that if fighters were not active for more than 30 seconds than they should be stood up and restarted.

The commission took interest in Mr. Dahl's suggestion and asked him to submit more information regarding the restarting of a round so that the commission's Martial Arts Advisory Committee could address it.

Mr. Dahl stated that there needed to be a set of nonbiased rules that needed to be followed by referees and judges because if the referee did not like one guy he could stop and start the fight to help out the other guy. Ms. Scuri asked Mr. Dahl if he was talking about ringside mechanics. Mr. Dahl indicated he was and wanted to know who was going to be in charge of that. Ms. Scuri informed Mr. Dahl that the ringside mechanics was the commission's responsibility. Mr. Plowman informed Mr. Dahl that the commission had a very formal process for its officials.

Ms. Scuri stated that this concluded the regulation hearing for mixed martial arts.

The draft minutes were prepared by:

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FRANK MUNOZ

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

The final minutes were prepared by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
FRANK MUNOZ

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DATE